

REMARKS

The instant amendment corrects inadvertent typographical errors in the claims.

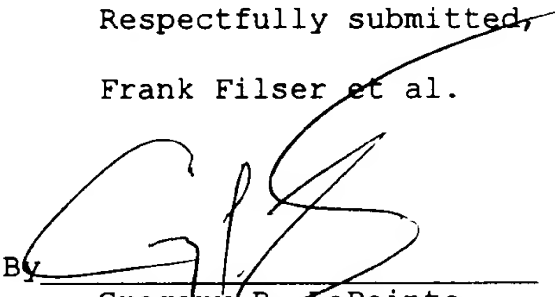
If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Filser et al.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 22, 2002  
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Date: July 22, 2002



Version with markings to show changes made to claims

16. (Amended) A process for production of an artificial tooth substitute to be fitted on a prepared dental stump comprising the steps of:

scanning and digitizing a three-dimensional outer and inner surface of a positive model of a skeletal structure for the artificial tooth substitute to obtain data;

determining an enlargement factor (f) for the obtained data in accordance with the following

$$f = \sqrt[3]{\frac{[P]\rho_s}{[P]\rho_r}}$$

where  $[P]\rho_r$  is the relative density of a prepared blank and  $[P]\rho_s$  is the achievable relative density after sintering;

enlarging the obtained data linearly in all direction by the enlargement factor (f) thereby compensating precisely for sinter shrinkage to obtain modified data for an enlarged model;

transferring the modified data to a control unit of a processing machine;

processing a blank of porous ceramic material in the processing machine and removing material therefrom to produce a design form of the enlarged model;

dense-sintering the design form of porous ceramic material to obtain a skeletal structure having precise end dimensions;

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and

facing the skeletal structure as desired to form the artificial tooth substitute.

18. (Amended) A process according to claim 16, wherein the machined enlarged model is sintered to a density  $[P]\rho_s$  of 90 to 100% of the theoretically possible density.

19. (Amended) A process according to claim 16, wherein the machined enlarged model is sintered to a density  $[P]\rho_s$  of 96 to 100% of the theoretically possible density.

20. (Amended) A process according to claim 16, wherein the machined enlarged model is sintered to a density  $[P]\rho_s$  of greater than 99% of the theoretically possible density.